

**AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims below by deleting items marked with a strikeout (i.e. ~~patent~~) or brackets (i.e., [patent]) and adding items marked with an underline (i.e. patent).

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended)     ~~The A~~ food dispenser ~~of Claim 1, wherein comprising:~~  
   an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said top portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably resilient  
aperture for insertion and removal of food;  
   said top portion ~~comprises~~ comprising a perimeter encircling a concavity, said concavity  
housing ~~a first~~ said aperture[[.]];  
   a plurality of ribs positioned on said container, said plurality of ribs provided for facilitating  
selective opening of said aperture; and  
   at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of  
being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

4. (Currently Amended)      ~~The~~ A food dispenser [of Claim 3,] comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said top portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably resilient  
aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said top portion comprising a perimeter encircling a concavity, said concavity housing said  
aperture, wherein said perimeter comprises comprising a relatively planar configuration for placement  
of said top portion in a free standing position[.];

a plurality of ribs positioned on said container, said plurality of ribs provided for facilitating  
selective opening of said aperture; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of  
being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

5. (Currently Amended)      ~~The~~ A food dispenser [of Claim 1,] comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said base portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably  
resilient aperture for insertion and removal of food;

wherein said base portion comprises comprising a perimeter encircling a concavity, said  
concavity housing a second aperture[.];

a plurality of ribs positioned on said container, said plurality of ribs provided for facilitating

selective opening of said aperture; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

6. (Currently Amended)      ~~The~~ A food dispenser [of Claim 5,]

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion intermediately therebetween, said base portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably resilient aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said base portion comprising a perimeter encircling a concavity, said concavity housing said aperture, wherein said perimeter comprises a relatively planar configuration for placement of said base portion in a free standing position[.];

a plurality of ribs positioned on said container, said plurality of ribs provided for facilitating selective opening of said aperture; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended)      ~~The~~ A food dispenser [of Claim 7,] comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said top portion comprises a selectively openable and returnably resilient  
aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said central portion comprises a front wall and rear wall opposite said front wall, and opposing  
lateral sides therebetween, said central portion tapered from a wide width adjacent to said top portion  
to a narrow width adjacent to said base portion;

~~wherein~~ said lateral sides comprise comprising a first series plurality of ribs adjacent to said top  
portion, said first series of ribs operating in conjunction with said top portion to selectively open said  
first said aperture[[.]]; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of  
being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

9. (Currently Amended)      ~~The~~ A food dispenser [of Claim 7,] comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said base portion comprises a selectively openable and returnably resilient  
aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said central portion comprises a front wall and rear wall opposite said front wall, and opposing  
lateral sides therebetween, said central portion tapered from a wide width adjacent to said top portion

to a narrow width adjacent to said base portion;

~~wherein~~ said lateral sides ~~comprise~~ comprising a ~~second series~~ plurality of ribs adjacent to said base portion, said ~~second series of~~ ribs operating in conjunction with said base portion to selectively open said ~~second~~ aperture[[]]; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Canceled)

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A food dispenser comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said top portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably resilient  
aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said top portion having a perimeter encircling a concavity housing said aperture; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of  
being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

17. (New) A food dispenser comprising:

an enclosed container comprising a top portion, a base portion and a central portion  
intermediately therebetween, said base portion comprising a selectively openable and returnably  
resilient aperture for insertion and removal of food;

said base portion having a perimeter encircling a concavity housing said aperture; and

at least one item of food stored within said container, said at least one item of food capable of  
being inserted into said container and removed therefrom through said aperture.

18. (New) The food dispenser as in Claim 3, 4, 8 or 16, wherein said base portion comprises a  
selectively openable and returnably resilient aperture for insertion and removal of food.

19. (New)      The food dispenser of Claim 18, wherein said base portion comprises a perimeter encircling a concavity, said concavity housing said aperture.
20. (New)      The food dispenser of Claim 19, wherein said perimeter comprises a relatively planar configuration for placement of said base portion in a free standing position.
21. (New)      The food dispenser as in Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 16 or 17, wherein said central portion comprises a front wall and a rear wall opposite said front wall, and opposing lateral sides therebetween, said central portion tapered from a wide width adjacent to said top portion to a narrow width adjacent to said base portion.
22. (New)      The food dispenser of Claim 21, wherein said ribs are formed on said lateral sides adjacent said aperture operating in conjunction with said top portion to selectively said aperture in said top portion.
23. (New)      The food dispenser of Claim 21, wherein said ribs are formed on said lateral sides adjacent said aperture operating in conjunction with said base portion to selectively said aperture in said base portion.

24. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16 or 17, further comprising means for securing said dispenser to an object to facilitate transport of said dispenser.

25. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 24, wherein said means comprises a biased clip, one end of said clip affixed to said dispenser and an opposite end of said clip free to move from dispenser to permit securement to said object.

26. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 24, wherein said means comprises a tab having an orifice therethrough, said orifice for hanging said dispenser.

27. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 24, wherein said means comprises a chain affixed to said dispenser, said chain for placement about a user's neck, wrist, arm or another similar article.

28. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 24, wherein said means comprises a hook affixed to said dispenser, said hook for hanging said dispenser for storage.

29. (New) The food dispenser of Claim 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 16 or 17, wherein said dispenser is fabricated from a relatively soft, pliable polymeric material.